



Excursion Guide

Spain

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Read Aloud Folktale, Legend or Myth:

Medio Pollito: A Spanish Tale adapted by Eric A. Kimmel (Marshall Cavendish, 2010): Medio Pollito is a half-chick: one leg, one wing, and half a comb. He decides that he would like to travel to Madrid to meet the king, and on the way, he helps the water, fire, and the wind. When he runs into trouble in Madrid, they are there to help him. Medio Pollito decides to stay in Madrid, and becomes the weather vane at the top of the cathedral. This is a sweet, funny story with a good deal of dialogue. Its message promotes friendship and kindness.

“The Legend of Princess Casilda” in *Spain* by Debbie L. Yanuck, pages 10-11 (Blue Earth Books, 2004): Princess Casilda is the daughter of the evil King Zénon. When she finds out that he is keeping prisoners in the castle, she begins to sneak food to them. This very brief selection does not contain any dialogue or humor; but it is a gentle and beautiful story that may be more appropriate for some groups than the longer, more adventurous tale of Medio Pollito.

Remember to:

- Greet each person individually
- Use a globe or large map to show each person the starting point and destination
- Engage people in informal conversation
- Include supplemental materials such as music, souvenirs, coloring pages, or food to enhance the program



Five Facts About Spain

1. Every July, the city of Pamplona hosts the most famous Running of the Bulls festival.
2. Spain is governed by a Prime Minister and a Cabinet, and it also has a King and Queen.
3. The Cave of Altamira, in the Cantabria region, is decorated with Stone-Age drawings of bison and other animals. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
4. Bearded Vultures are the largest birds of prey in Europe. Many of them live in the Pyrenees and Cantabrian mountains of Spain.
5. The national flower of Spain is the red carnation.



Annotated Bibliography

Unless otherwise specified, the non-fiction books listed here have many color photographs and images (but not cartoon-style illustrations) and they do not have an intimidating or distracting amount of text on the page. Although many of the selections are children's books, they are not obviously juvenile in their layout and illustrations.

Top Selections

Eyewitness Travel: Barcelona & Catalonia by Roger Williams (Dorling Kindersley Publishing, 2014) and *Eyewitness Travel: Spain* by Nick Inman (Dorling Kindersley Publishing, 2013). Like all the books in this series, it is filled with photographs, illustrations, and maps. Although there are many images on each page, the books are not overwhelming to look at. The text is small, but because of the number and quality of the images, the book can easily be enjoyed without reading the text. Chapters in *Spain* include northern, eastern, and southern Spain, Barcelona, Madrid, and the Spanish Islands. *Barcelona & Catalonia* includes information on and images of architecture, restaurants, markets, festivals, and entertainment.

Made In Spain: Dishes for the American Kitchen by José Andrés (Clarkson Potter, 2008). The gorgeous photographs in this book might make you hungry – be careful! The food photography is very elegant and includes close-ups of these colorful and unique dishes. Andrés might be familiar to readers from his PBS show of the same name.

National Geographic Countries of the World: Spain by Anita Croy (National Geographic, 2010): This book includes multiple maps and many photographs. Since it is a National Geographic publication, all of the photos are beautiful! The familiar “yellow rectangle” of National Geographic shows up frequently, which might be a positive association for some readers. Topics include: geography, nature, history, people & culture, government. Each chapter includes insets on specific topics, including Antoni Gaudí, conquistadors, and Running With The Bulls.



¡Ole! Flamenco by George Ancona (Lee & Low Books, 2010). This is a very exciting book full of large colorful photographs of singers, musicians, and dancers with close-ups of hands, feet, faces, and instruments. Ancona's portraits capture his subjects' passion for their art and their enthusiasm is contagious. There is not a great deal of text; the font and language is clear enough for less-confident readers to engage with successfully.

Spain by Barbara A. Somervill (Children's Press, 2013): The elegant layout, wide range of topics, and unique and plentiful photographs will appeal to readers and browsers of all levels. There are images of Spanish wildlife, reproductions of Spanish art, and portraits of well-known Spanish stars and athletes. The chapter on Spanish history is more comprehensive than comparable chapters in the other books. There are ten chapters, including "Out and About," "On the Iberian Peninsula," "Magnificent Life," and "Through the Ages."

Spain by Debbie L. Yanuck (Blue Earth Books, 2004): Nearly every page of this book includes a large, color photograph. Some are iconic, recognizable images, such as those of matadors; but most, including those of a religious parade and the tomato festival, show a side of Spain that may not be as familiar to readers. The font is large, and the sentences are short, making the text accessible to patrons who would like to read it. There are eight chapters, including "City and Country Life," "Seasons in Spain," and "Sights to See in Spain."

The Spanish Kitchen: Regional Ingredients, Recipes, and Stories from Spain by Clarissa Hyman (Interlink Books, 2005). Like Andrés' book, this is also full of beautiful photographs. However, in addition to photos of food, this book includes photos of markets, restaurants, and street scenes, which provide a visual context for the role food plays in the Spanish culture. Each of the 17 chapters focuses on a specific region of Spain and on an ingredient from that area.

Welcome to Spain by Mary Berendes (Child's World, 2008): This is one of the shortest selections on the list. Each section includes one to two paragraphs of large-print text, and a full-page photograph. Images include a vegetable market, a children's soccer game, and Running with the Bulls. There are fourteen sections, including "Plants and Animals," "Long Ago," "Pastimes," and "Holidays."



Alternate Selections

Foods of Spain by Barbara Sheen (KidHaven Press, 2008). This book has many large and bright photographs, but it is listed as an alternate selection because of the large amount of text. The book covers foods that will probably be familiar to some readers, including paella, churros, and olive oil, as well as some potentially unfamiliar foods like saffron and gazpacho. There are recipes included, if anyone is feeling adventurous! If no other cooking/food books are available, this is a good option.

Insight Guides: Barcelona (Insight Guides, 2014). The only reason this is listed as an alternate selection is because this review is based on seeing sections of the book online and other *Insight Guides*, not the book itself. The layout is very similar to the *Eyewitness Travel* series: there are many colorful photographs on each page, and although there is a good deal of text, a casual browser will certainly be entertained and engaged by the images alone. The book includes sections on different areas of Barcelona, such as El Raval and Eixample; there is a “Features” section covering architecture, art, design, food, and wine; and there are nine “Photo Features” on topics including “Fiesta Fever,” “Modernisme,” and “The Sagrada Familia.”

Spain in Pictures by Stacy Taus-Bolstad (Lerner Publications, 2004): This book is an alternate selection because it includes more text and fewer photographs than the other books listed here. However, because this is a higher-level book, the photographs that are included reveal a more unique and in-depth picture of Spain. For example, there are pictures of Spanish art and architecture, agriculture and industry, and government figures that might not be found in the other titles. Chapters include “The Land,” “History and Government,” and “Cultural Life,” among others.



Supplemental Materials



Souvenirs: red carnations, fans (to go along with any fan dance videos)

Food: ham, cheese, sliced baguette or crackers, and olives as “tapas”, natilla pudding (recipe in *Spain* by Debbie L. Yanuck), gazpacho (recipe in *Spain* by Barbara A. Somervill)

Music Suggestions (to search on <http://www.youtube.com> or in your own library’s collection): Flamenco and Spanish classical guitar music; Basque trikitixa (accordion and tambourine) music; videos of Flamenco and/or fan dances

Free coloring pages are available on the Internet from helpful resources such as <http://www.coloring.ws> and <http://www.supercoloring.com>. All coloring pages are subject to their own terms of use, separate from the Tales & Travel Creative Commons License. The following links are suggested for this Excursion: Spanish Flag (<http://www.coloring.ws/countries/spain/flag1.gif>)